

ANNUAL MINUTES

—OF THE—

Baltimore Annual Conference,

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH,

HELD AT

Churchville, Augusta County, Va.,

March 19th to 24th, 1863.

Committee on Publication :

JAS. E. ARMSTRONG, TH. HILDEBRAND, J. A. H.
MOORE, GEO. V. LEECH.

Minutes of Conference.

The Baltimore Annual Conference commenced its session in the Lutheran Church, Churchville, Augusta County, Va., Thursday morning, March 19th, 1863.

The session was opened by reading the Scriptures, singing, and prayer, by G. G. Brooke.

E. R. Veitch was elected President of the Conference.

J. S. Martin was elected Secretary, and J. E. Armstrong, Assistant Secretary.

The roll was called by the Secretary, and 36 members answered to their names.

Conference resolved to commence its daily sessions at 9 o'clock, A. M., and adjourn at 12½ P. M.

The rules of the last session were adopted for the government of the Conference during the present session.

The following Committees were then appointed :

Necessitous Cases—W. S. Baird, H. A. Gaver, S. Rodgers, S. B. Dolly.

Seminaries—J. C. Dice, S. Rodgers, J. A. H. Moore, G. V. Leech.

Temperance—G. G. Brooke, J. F. Liggett, S. Rodgers, J. R. Wheeler.

Bible Cause—P. B. Smith, J. W. F. Graham, R. Smith, S. Rodgers.

Sunday Schools—J. E. Armstrong, L. E. Johnson, J. S. Engle, T. Briley.

Public Worship—S. Regester, D. W. Arnold, L. E. Johnson.

STEWARDS.

Clerical—J. C. Dice, W. R. Stringer, J. F. Liggett, S. Rodgers.

Lay—M. Walton, J. Beard, E. Geeding.

Conferencee adjourned with singing the Doxology and prayer, to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SECOND DAY.

FRIDAY, March 20.

The Conference met pursuant to adjournment. The President in the chair.

Religious exercises were conducted by J. C. Dice.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

S. Regester offered the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were made the order of the day for to-morrow at 10 o'clock :

Whereas, A large number of our brethren, members of this Conference, are prevented from attendance at this session, by reason of their being within the enemies lines, and there are many others whose circumstances are similarly affected by the desolations of war, and the difficulties of transportation, therefore,

1. Resolved. By the Baltimore Annual Conference in Conference assembled, that the President and Presiding Elders, in the exercises of the appointing powers be, and are hereby, requested to conform their action, as far as possible, to the above mentioned exigencies.

2. Resolved, That wherever it is, in their judgment, practicable and judicious to adhere, to the ancient custom of Methodism in respect of the itineracy, it be done.

3. Resolved. That any departure from the long settled law and usage of our beloved Zion, by reason of the above mentioned difficulties, is not to be construed into indifference on our part to solemn obligations as Methodist traveling ministers, nor as establishing a precedent hereafter to be binding.

4. Resolved. That believing, as we do, that our people are unyielding in their attachment to the itineracy, as the best method of diffusing the Gospel of the Son of God, we, as their Pastors, will be true to their wishes and to our own sacred vows, and in the spirit and help of God do renew the consecration of ourselves to our holy work.

On motion, Resolved, That the names of the following brethren be omitted from our roll, they having removed beyond the bounds of the Virginia work, viz : W. F. Speake, R. B. Frampton, A. Buhrman, H. C. McDaniel, W. S. Edwards, B. H. Smith.

The First Question of the General Minutes was called, viz :
Question—Who are admitted on trial ? For answer see General Minutes.

The second Question of the General Minutes was called, viz :

Question—Who remained on trial ? For answer see General Minutes.

The Third Question of the General Minutes was called, viz :
Question—Who are admitted into full connection ? For answer see General Minutes.

Conference adjourned with singing and prayer, to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

THIRD DAY.

SATURDAY, March 21.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment, the President in the chair.

Religious exercises were conducted by S. Rodgers.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were adopted :

Whereas—Misconception may arise as to the purpose and effect of the action of this Conference in omitting from its roll the names of some of its members, therefore,

Resolved, That by said action we simply intended to obtain as correct a list as possible of those who are now so situated as to be able to look to us for appointments.

The President called for recommendations of Local Preachers for Deacon's Orders, and M. V. Smith, having been recommended by his Quarterly Conference, was elected to Deacon's Order.

STEWARDS.

The Stewards made their call for collections and claims.

SEMINARIES.

The Report of the Committee on Seminaries was read and adopted.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

The Preamble and Resolutions offered yesterday by S. Regester and made the order of the day, for to-day at 10 o'clock, were taken up and adopted—33 voting in the affirmative and 4 in the negative.

CHURCH RELATIONS.

Conference ordered the appointment of a Committee on Church Relations, and S. Regester, J. S. Martin, S. Rodgers, J. S. Gardner and J. F. Liggett were appointed.

On motion, M. Walton, E. Geeding, P. Herring, J. Beard and J. Evans, laymen, were respectfully requested to meet and confer with the above named Committee.

J. M. LITTELL.

G. V. Leech was requested to prepare a memoir of J. M. Littell and report to the next Conference.

Conference adjourned with singing and prayer, to meet to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

FOURTH DAY.

MONDAY, March 23.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment, the President in the chair.

The Journal of Saturday was read and approved.

The classes of the 3rd and 4th years, severally admitted into full connection at this Conference and the session preceding, were called forward and examined in the presence of the Conference, in accordance with the discipline. The names of those examined are as follows: Lewis R. Jones, J. Poisal Hyde, Leonidas Butt, Adam Q. Flaherty, Lemuel W. Haslup, Peter H. Whisner, George W. Carpenter, Charles A. Joyce and James W. Bennett.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Report of the Committee on Sunday Schools was read and adopted.

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Conference ordered that the following brethren be a Committee to draft a Constitution for a Home Missionary Society, viz: J. C. Dice, J. W. F. Graham, S. Regester.

The Fifth Question of the General Minutes was called, viz: Question—Who have been elected and ordained Elders this year? For answer see General Minutes.

The Eleventh Question of the General Minutes was called, viz:

Question—Were all the Preachers' characters examined? For answer see General Minutes.

CONFERENCE REGISTER.

Conference ordered that J. E. Armstrong and the Preachers on the Rockingham Circuit be constituted a Committee on Publication of a Conference Register.

SEAT OF NEXT SESSION.

Conference, by a unanimous vote, fixed the seat of its next session at Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Va.

It was also ordered that the Presiding Elders should be granted power to fix the time, and, if necessary, change the place of our next Conference.

ORDINATION.

S. Regester, J. S. Gardner, S. Rodgers and W. S. Baird, were appointed a Committee to consider the question of ordination in relation to brethren who have been elected to Ministerial orders.

Conference adjourned with singing and prayer, to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

FIFTH DAY.

TUESDAY MORNING, March 24.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. The President in the chair.

Religious Exercises were conducted by J. F. Liggett.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The Eighth Question of the General Minutes was called, viz.:

Question—Who are the Superannuated or worn-out preachers? For answer see General Minutes.

The Constitution of the Home Missionary Society, of the Baltimore Annual Conference, was read and adopted. (See Appendix.)

PRESIDING ELDERS TO DISBURSE.

On motion, Resolved, by the Baltimore Annual Conference in Conference assembled. That the Presiding Elders be authorized to distribute to those appointments which may require aid, from any monies which may be in their hands now, or at any time during the year, and account for the same, by proper vouchers to the Treasurer of the Society, at its next meeting.

CHURCH RELATIONS.

The Report of the Committee on Church Relations was read, and adopted by calling the ayes and noes. The vote was as follows :

Ayes—J. S. Gardner, J. A. H. Moore, J. F. Liggett, S. B. Dolly, T. Briley, J. N. Gray, J. W. F. Graham, J. W. Bennett, G. W. Carpenter, L. Lenz, M. May, E. R. Veitch, R. Smith, C. A. Joyce, W. R. Stringer, T. Hildebrand, P. H. Whisner, G. V. Leech, L. Butt, L. W. Haslup, J. E. Armstrong, W. S. Baird, S. Regester, J. C. Dice, L. R. Jones, P. B. Smith, A. Q. Flaherty, A. P. Boude, J. F. Bean, S. F. Butt, H. A. Gaver, J. S. Martin, J. P. Etchison, G. G. Brooke, D. W. Arnold, L. E. Johnson, G. R. Jefferson, J. Beaty, S. Rodgers, J. P. Hyde, J. J. Engle, J. E. Wasson, D. Ball.—43.

Noes.—None.

Absent.—D. Trout, J. W. Ewan, J. Leef, P. S. E. Sixeas, L. D. Nixon, H. Hoffman, E. F. Heterick, R. R. S. Hough, S. H. Griffith, O. P. Wirgman, J. R. Wheeler, S. Smith, F. C. Tebbs, E. G. Jamison, J. P. Chittum, W. G. Eggleston, B. F. Brooke, Theo. M. Carson, D. Harris, J. W. Kelley, Isaac Gibson, M. G. Balthis, S. McMullen, J. W. Tongue, W. Hedges, J. H. March, C. L. Torreyson, J. H. Waugh, F. A. Mercer, J. H. Wolff, B. Hough, S. S. Roszel, F. H. Richey, J. Landstreet, W. V. Tudor, S. Cornelius, R. M. Lipscomb, W. R. Rippetoe, J. M. Grandin, J. W. Wolff.—41.

MISSIONS.

The Report of the Committee on Missions was presented and read.

OFFICERS OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

G. G. Brooke was unanimously elected President of the Home Missionary Society ; J. S. Gardner was elected Vice-

President ; G. V. Leech was elected Secretary, and Jas. E. Armstrong was elected Treasurer.

COMMITTEE ON NECESSITOUS CASES.

The Committee on Necessitous Cases was, on motion, discharged.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION.

The Committee on Publication was increased by adding thereto the name of G. V. Leech.

COLLECTION.

A call was made for monies to be paid by members of the Conference who may wish to receive copies of the published minutes.

STEWARDS' REPORT.

The Stewards' Report was presented and read. The resolution appended to the report was ordered to be so amended that the collections to be taken up during the ensuing year shall be appropriated exclusively to the Superannuated Preachers, and the Widows and Orphans of deceased preachers. (See Reports.)

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The Report of the Committee on Temperance was read and adopted. See Reports.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON THE BIBLE CAUSE.

The Report of the Committee on the Bible Cause was read and adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

Conference ordered that when it adjourn, it adjourn to meet this afternoon at 2½ o'clock.

SYMPATHY FOR ABSENT MEMBERS.

The following resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, A number of our brethren in Virginia and Maryland, members of this body, are prevented from meeting with us at this session of our Conference, by reason of the existence of war in our country, therefore,

Resolved. That we hereby re-assure them of our Christian sympathy for them in this time of peculiar sorrow and distress, and that we again "commend them to God and the word

of his grace, which is able to build them up and give them an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

J. S. GARDNER,
J. S. MARTIN.

THANKS.

Resolved, By the Baltimore Annual Conference in Conference assembled, That the warmest thanks of this Conference be, and are hereby, presented to the friends in this vicinity for the cordial reception, hospitable entertainment, and Christian kindness, extended to us during our stay among them.

J. E. ARMSTRONG,
G. V. LEECH.

Conference adjourned, &c

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, March 24, 1863.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment. The President in the Chair.

Religious exercises were conducted by P. B. Smith.

The Journal of this morning was read and approved.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ORDINATION.

The Committee appointed to consider the expediency of conferring ordination upon those members of the body elected to Deacon's and Elder's orders, presented their report, which was read, and on motion it was adopted. (See Reports.)

The President announced the Committees of Examination, Trustees of Wesleyan Female Institute, at Staunton, and Visitors to the same.

CHAPLAINCIES.

On motion, Resolved, That D. Ball be, and is hereby, requested to correspond with the Chaplains of the Army, who are members of this Conference, and communicate at our next session whatever of interest he may be able to obtain in regard to themselves and their work.

THANKS.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the Pastor of this Church and to the congregation usually worshipping here, for the use of the Church during the Conference session.

On motion, Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference be, and they are hereby, tendered to Bro. E. R. Veitch, for the

efficient and courteous manner in which he has presided over and conducted the deliberations of this Conference.

Signed, P. B. SMITH,
 D. BALL.

Bishop Glossbrenner, of the United Brethren Church, appropriately addressed the Conference.

FREDERICKSBURG.

S. Rodgers addressed the Conference in relation to the events which have recently occurred at Fredericksburg, and the condition of the church there, which has passed through scenes of such great trial and suffering.

STATISTICS.

On motion, Resolved, That the Presiding Elders of the several districts be, and they are hereby, directed to collect the statistics of the circuits and stations in their respective Districts at the last Quarterly Conference, and report to the Secretary at the next Conference.

Signed, J. S. MARTIN,
 J. E. ARMSTRONG.

APPOINTMENTS.

The appointments of the Preachers to their several fields of labor were announced by the President.

ADJOURNMENT.

Conference adjourned with singing, and prayer by Bishop Glossbrenner, to meet at Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Va. (Time not given.)

General Minutes.

Question 1. Who are admitted on trial ?

L. C. Miller, E. H. Jones, A. P. Neel, W. R. McNeer.

Question 2. Who remain on trial ?

M. G. Balthis, J. R. Greenwell, D. Harris.

Question 3. Who are admitted into full connection ?

A. Q. Flaherty, L. W. Haslup, P. H. Whisner, W. G. Carpenter, C. A. Joyce, J. W. Bennett. W. G. Coe was re-elected.

Question 4. Who are the Deacons ?

J. F. Bean, A. P. Boude, L. E. Johnson, S. F. Butt, T. Briley, L. Lenz, J. A. H. Moore, M. May.

The following are the Deacons. Elect but not ordained :

L. R. Jones, J. P. Hyde, L. Butt, J. N. Gray, J. W. Bennett, C. A. Joyce, P. H. Whisner, A. Q. Flaherty, L. Haslup, G. W. Carpenter.

Question 5. Who have been elected and ordained Elders this year ?

The following were elected but not ordained, viz : L. E. Johnson, T. Briley, L. Lenz, J. A. H. Moore.

Question 6. Who have located this year ?

None.

Question 7. Who are the Supernumerary Preachers ?

None.

Question 8. Who are the Superannuated, or worn-out, Preachers ?

N. Wilson, D. Trout.

Question 9. Who have been expelled from the connection this year ?

None.

Question 10. Who have withdrawn from the connection this year ?

None.

Question 11. Were all the Preachers' characters examined ?

This was strictly attended to by calling over their names before the Conference.

Question 12. Who have died this year ?

None.

Question 13. What is the number of members and what of Probationers in society ?

The state of the country prevented the collection of general statistics.

Question 14. What amounts are necessary for the Superannuated Preachers, the widows and orphans of Preachers, and to make up the deficiency of those who have not obtained their regular allowance on the circuits ?

See Stewards' Report.

Question 15. What has been collected on the foregoing account ?

See Stewards' Reports.

Question 16. What has been contributed for the support of missions, &c. ?

See Reports.

Question 17. Where are the Preachers' stationed this year ?

See Appointments.

Question 18. Where and when shall our next Conference be held ?

Bridgewater, Rockingham County, Va. Time not given.

Reports.

I.

SEMINARIES.

The Committee on Seminaries present the following report, viz. :

The Wesleyan Female Institute, at Staunton, Va., sustains a relation to the Conference which calls for the whole weight of our influence in its favor.

The appointment of the Principal and a portion of the Trustees, belongs to the President of the Conference. At the same time, the school is not burdensome to us.

For several years the Institute has been under the care of Rev. W. S. Baird, who has most efficiently conducted its affairs through difficulties, which might have caused one less energetic to despair of success. The first year of his connection was spent during a remarkable financial pressure. Then came the war, unsettling all the ordinary pursuits of society, and presenting embarrassments under which very many institutions of learning fell. It is with unfeigned pleasure, however, that your Committee have learned that the success of this school has been constantly increasing. Especially during the past year, its prosperity has been gratifying. There has been a considerable accession to the number of pupils. In a pecuniary aspect, too, the result thus far is satisfactory, and this result has been attained without a very great increase in the price of board, notwithstanding the prices of provisions have been greatly enhanced.

Efficient teachers give their assistance to the Principal in the several departments. The domestic arrangements, under the supervision of Mrs. Baird, we believe to offer more than ordinary inducements to parents desiring a good home for their daughters while being educated.

The daughters of Ministers receive the regular course of tuition without charge.

It may be well to state, that in view of contemplated improvements to enable the Institute to carry out fully its plans and meet its obligations, the present time is regarded by its

officers and ourselves, as propitious, in which to secure the fund necessary.

We offer the following resolutions for the consideration of the Conference :

1st. That the Wesleyan Female Institute, as conducted by Rev. W. S. Baird, is worthy of our increased confidence.

2d. That each minister should make faithful exertions to increase its patronage.

3d. That the claim of this Institution is most earnestly commended to those of our members and friends, who may desire, by donation, to appropriate of their means for the advancement of Christian education.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. C. DICE, Chairman,
S. RODGERS,
J. A. H. MOORE,
G. V. LEECH, Secretary.

II.

TEMPERANCE.

The Committee on Temperance ask leave to report :

The subject of Temperance has elicited the earnest attention of the Christian and philanthropist during the long ages which have elapsed since the introduction of intoxicating drinks as a beverage into society.

The Pulpit and the Press, public lectures and penal laws, popular and influential associations, and all means which wisdom could devise, have been employed to extirpate the great evil of *Intemperance* ; yet, we are forced to acknowledge the melancholy fact that at no period, perhaps, in the history of our country, has there been manifested a greater tendency to universal dissipation than at the present, and when we view this subject in its relation to the perilous struggle in which we are now engaged, and which must terminate in the elevation, or subjugation, of our Confederacy, as patriots and Christian ministers, we can but feel a most profound solicitude. Believing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to be fully competent to effect a perfect and entire reformation in our land, we are encouraged to make renewed, vigorous and immediate exertions in behalf of the "Temperance cause" ; and, therefore, we recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :

1st. Resolved, By the Members of the Baltimore Annual Conference in Conference assembled, That we will faithfully adhere to the principles which have hitherto governed us as a body of ministers, and characterized our Church on the subject of Temperance.

2d. Resolved, That, in our public ministrations and our intercourse in society, by precept and example, we will discountenance the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage.

3d. Resolved, That we will frequently preach, or lecture, on the subject, and encourage the organization of Temperance societies in our respective charges.

4th. Resolved, That we consider the common use of alcoholic drinks among our beloved soldiery, and the pernicious example of many of our officers and men in authority, as most disastrous to the cause of our civil liberty and good morals.

5th. Resolved, That as the various Temperance organizations in our country are mostly inoperative at the present time, it is the imperative duty of all men, and Christian people especially, to engage in this important work without delay.

G. G. BROOKE,
J. F. LIGGETT,
SAMUEL RODGERS.

III.

BIBLE CAUSE.

The Committee on the Bible Cause beg leave to report :

The fearful convulsions of the present time have not only interrupted trade, diverted industry from its ordinary channels and shaken the foundations of society, but have also dissolved the connection which previously united Christians of this land in support of the great agencies for the diffusion of religious literature.

This separation has entailed, likewise, the loss of whatever benefits may have formerly resulted from such union. The supply of Bibles for the South was drawn chiefly from the American Bible Society. The same circumstances which have withdrawn our support from this Society, and prevented the circulation of its publications among us, have produced an increased demand for the Word of God.

Appreciating this new condition of affairs, Christian people of the Confederate States have made vigorous efforts to supply the Holy Scriptures, and in furtherance of the object, organized the Confederate States' Bible Society. This Society is now in successful operation, promising soon, wholly to relieve the wants of our soldiers and people. Your committee have never been more deeply impressed with the value of God's Word, and the necessity for its wide distribution. They feel assured that in these respects they faithfully represent the convictions of your body, and of our people at large; and, that nothing more will be needed to secure the hearty co-operation

of those whom you serve, in sending forth the light and truth, than a faithful presentation to them of the claims of our Publishing house. No one who has been solaced by its promises and cheered by its hopes, can refuse these comforts of the Bible to the many who now so much need them. We cannot conclude this report without recording our grateful recognition of the fact that in this work, God has set before us an open door. Every where our soldiers evince an ardent desire to possess the Scriptures, and receive them with eager thankfulness.

Your Committee beg leave, therefore, to submit the following resolutions :

Resolved. That we rejoice in the organization of the Confederate States' Bible Society, commending it to the care and blessing of God, and to the liberality of a Christian people.

Resolved. That we will co-operate with the Virginia State Bible Society, auxiliary to the Confederate States Bible Society.

Resolved. That we will, at a suitable time, during the present year, present the claims of the Bible Cause to our people, and solicit their contributions for its support.

P. B. SMITH,
J. W. F. GRAHAM,
SAMUEL RODGERS,
ROBERT SMITH.

IV.

MISSIONARY CAUSE.

Missionary appropriation for ensuing Conference year, \$2,325.00

APPORTIONED AS FOLLOWS :

Roanoke District,	\$775 00
Lewisburg District,	800 00
Rockingham District,	750 00

V.

ORDINATION.

The Committee to whom was referred the question of expediency of conferring ordination upon those members of this body who have been elected to Deacon's and Elder's orders, beg leave to report that, after carefully considering the whole subject, they are of opinion that it would be unwise for the Conference to take any action, at this session, upon the matter. And therefore—waving for the present the exercise of the right which inheres in us as Elders in the Church of God, to ordain by the laying on of hands; and in the absence of any pressing

necessity for doing that, which, under other circumstances, we might lawfully do—it is the sense of this Conference, that the brethren referred to ought not to depart from the long established order and usage of the Church.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL REGESTER,
JAMES S. GARDNER,
GEORGE G. BROOKE,
SAMUEL RODGERS,
WM. S. BAIRD.

VI.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to submit the following report :

That having received statistics from only a small number of Circuits and Stations, we are not able to make a presentation to the Conference of any statement definitely setting forth the actual condition of our several schools. We believe, however, that they are generally prosperous; and, though some of them may have suffered a temporary suspension from unavoidable causes, they will no doubt be resumed whenever circumstances may render it expedient. We present the following resolutions for adoption :

Resolved, 1st. That we recommend our preachers to regularly visit all the Sabbath Schools in their charges; that by their presence and counsel they may encourage both teachers and scholars.

Resolved, 2d. That our ministers be instructed to preach a special sermon on this subject, to all the congregations in their respective charges.

Resolved, 3rd. That as ministers of a Church which has always been missionary in its character, we will form Sunday Schools in destitute places, wherever the disciplinary number of scholars can be obtained.

Resolved, 4th. That our preachers be hereby directed to collect statistics during the ensuing year, and present them at the next session of our Conference.

VII.

CHURCH RELATIONS.

Your Committee respectfully report as follows upon the present position and relations of the Baltimore Annual Conference :

A repetition of former declarations of opinions and purpose in reference to questions of difference, heretofore existing between this body and the General Conference of 1860, is deemed unnecessary. They have become history—"known and read of all men." No reasons have occurred for any change of these declarations, while all that originally existed and many others subsequently developed, satisfy us of their truth and propriety, and the wisdom of their adoption. The question, however, arises, What is the present position of this Conference? What its functions? What its rights and duties? The consideration of these questions and their solution are eminently desirable--1st, That doubts, if any exist, may be removed from the minds of the membership of this body and our people. 2nd, That a clear, consistent and well-defined course of action may be pursued at present and in the future.

By reference to the protest, resolutions and other action of the majority of the Baltimore Conference, held at Staunton in 1861, it will be perceived that it was distinctly maintained that the General Conference of the M. E. Church, held at Buffalo in May, 1860, by its unconstitutional action, had sundered the ecclesiastical relations previously subsisting between the two bodies; that the jurisdiction of said General Conference would no longer be submitted to, and that we were "separate and independent of it," still claiming to be, notwithstanding, "an integral part of the M. E. Church."

There was, however, what may be termed a *condition subsequent* annexed to said declaration, to the effect, that "if three-fourths of the several Annual Conferences, to be held prior to the next session of this Conference, should disavow the act of their delegates and the action of the late General Conference," and should "unite in a demand that the most thorough and satisfactory redress of the grievances alleged should be accorded" and should "instruct their delegates so to vote in any *convention* which might be called for the purpose of forming another union, that then, and not until then, would we consider the propriety of "uniting with them in organizing another General Conference."

By said action it is clear that the former *union* was dissolved, not to be renewed, except upon the condition specified. The time indicated within which the Annual Conferences were

to act, has long since passed away, and although this Conference has received no official notice from many of the said Conferences of their action in the premises, we feel warranted in saying, from the information in our possession, that the action demanded has not been taken, and that the condition of re-union has been defeated.

The Conference, then, so far as the action of the majority is concerned, is separate and independent, and this separation and independence relates back, necessarily, to the period when the action was taken at Staunton. We scarcely deem it necessary to add here, that in the altered circumstances which now surround us, no compliance with the conditions prescribed as preliminary to a re-union could have availed anything. Such a result has been rendered utterly impossible by the events of the last two years, in any contingency.

How is this separation and independence of the Conference, as declared by the majority, affected by the protest or other action of the minority?

The minority agreed with the majority as to the *evils*, which were entailed upon us by the action of the General Conference, of May, 1860, but differed as to the *mode* of relief, and in that *alone*—they called for an extra session of the General Conference, in 1862, and for an expression of approval or disapproval, on the part of the Annual Conferences, of the terms of relief which they proposed, declaring that by the character of the response to their demands and that of their sister sympathizing Conferences, especially in slave territory, their course at the next session of this Conference would be controlled upon the question of "immediate separation." No extra General Conference was called, neither was any favorable response made by the Annual Conferences before the appointed period for the next ensuing session of this Conference in March, 1862, the period of limitation fixed for such action by the minority themselves. Nor has such action yet occurred, although another year has expired. Are we not warranted, therefore, in the conclusion, that the condition upon which they alone predicated a longer continuance of negotiation or union, has utterly failed, and that by their pledges they stand substantially upon the same ground as the majority? This, we believe, to be the truth, yet it is not necessary to maintain it, in order to vindicate our views of the character and position of this body. The action of the majority was the action of the Conference. That action, as already defined, separated and established the independence of the Baltimore Conference, and devolved upon it all the *duties, rights, powers and responsibilities* appertaining to such a position. These may be defined generally to be, all that pertained to the Conference before the separation, and

such, in addition, as had been previously delegated, but have now been resumed.

The question then arises, in the present distracted condition of the country, when many brethren, in sympathy with us, by reason of the accidents of war and other causes, are deprived of the privilege of meeting with us; when some others in Maryland, in violation of our understanding of solemn pledges, are seeking to re-connect themselves with the General Conference, from which they have been separated by the action of this Conference and their own declarations—Who constitute the Baltimore Conference? We answer, all the members of that body wherever located, who adhere to, and abide by, the action at Staunton in 1861; and those of that number, who meet together from time to time and receive work at our hand, constitute the active portion thereof.

We maintain that the body thus described has an organized form, and all the elements within itself to ensure its perpetuity. This does not depend upon *numbers*, but upon the rights inhering in the membership as constituents in the Conference of 1861, and who are faithful to its action. As to numbers, however, we may safely claim at least two thirds of the body as it heretofore existed.

How far the prerogatives of an independent body, such as has been described, should be exercised by this Conference under the peculiar circumstances which surround it, is a matter for us to decide. It is not a question of power, but of *expediency* and *justice*. We believe that all the powers and functions ought to be exercised which are necessary to the harmonious and successful working of the internal machinery of the body and the Church. Beyond this, *at present* we deem it improper, inexpedient and unjust to go, because of the constrained absence of brethren beloved, whose interests and rights are to be equally promoted, or prejudiced, with our own. While, therefore, our opinions, or sympathies, as avowed at the session of this body at Harrisouburg in 1862, have undergone no change, we regret that the circumstances which then modified and controlled our action, still exist in undiminished force. The desolations which then swept over much of Virginia and shut Maryland out from communication with us, still continue. We look forward, however, most ardently, to a period we trust, not far in the future, when these difficulties will be removed, and when, in the light of common counsels, a free and untrammelled decision shall fix our future relations in such a manner as to secure, in the largest measure practicable, our continued unity without the sacrifice of principle, or any diminution of our usefulness. A time of civil war, and especially such a civil war as that which now rages in this country, is, of all periods in the history of nations, the most

unfriendly to well considered changes, either in the Constitution, or relationships, of the Church. Believing that these views protect alike the interests of the present and the absent, we need only tender to the latter, in conclusion, our warmest sympathies and prayers in the midst of their embarrassments and trials, and exhort them to "quit themselves like men and be strong," with the assurance that "all things shall work together for good to them that love God."

VIII.

STEWARDS' REPORT.

The Board of Stewards beg leave to submit the following report :

The amount received from the different Stations and
Circuits, \$456.15

COLLECTIONS.

Lewisburg,	\$ 7.00
Levelton,	12.25
Blue Sulphur,	5.00
Monroe,	12.80
Peterstown and Forest Hill,	21.00
Bath Alum and Warm Springs,	42.82
Staunton,	72.85
Augusta,	5.00
Rockingham, (additional \$1 Com. Bk.)	49.45
East Rockingham,	43.00
Woodstock,	10.00
Front Royal, (Dr. Hough, pd.)	74.00
Christiansburg,	18.10
Blacksburg,	5.00
Jacksonville,	14.25
Lexington,	20.00
Fairfield,	5.00
Covington,	26.00

\$443.50

Per Sam'l Rodgers, \$5 ; per Capt.

Ball, \$7 ; excess, 65c., 12.65

\$456.15

EMORY UNIVERSITY
THEOLOGY LIBRARY

14694

DISBURSEMENTS.

D. Trout,	Claim, \$264.00—Dividends, \$132.25— Delivered to Bro. J. E. Armstrong.
N. Wilson,	Claim, \$200.00—Dividends, \$100.00— Delivered to Bro. J. E. Armstrong.
Mrs. Roszel,	Claim, \$124.00—Dividends, \$62.00— Delivered to Bro. J. E. Armstrong.
Mrs. J. N. Eakin,	Claim, \$116.00—Dividends, \$62.15— Delivered to Bro. Gaver.
Mrs. Watts,	Claim, \$100.00—Dividends, \$50.00— Delivered to Bro. J. E. Armstrong.
Mrs. Guest,	Claim, \$100.00—Dividends, \$50.00— Delivered to Bro. S. Rodgers.

Total Disbursements, \$456.40.

Resolved, That we cordially recommend the Ministers, in charge of the different Stations and Circuits, to take up collections for Conference claimants by the middle of November.

Signed, J. C. DICE, Chairman.

MOSES WALTON, Secretary.

 Superannuated Preachers, Widows and Orphans only, to be claimants.

APPENDIX.

Constitution of the Home Missionary Society

Article I.—This Society shall be denominated the Home Missionary Society of the Baltimore Annual Conference.

Article II.—The object of this Society shall be to aid in spreading the Gospel through the destitute portions of the Conference.

Article III.—The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer—annually elected from the members of the Society.

Article IV.—An Executive Committee composed of two Clerical and three Lay members, appointed by the President, shall in conjunction with the officers above named, arrange for the Conference anniversary, and in every suitable manner promote the interests of the Society.

Article V.—The payment of one dollar annually shall entitle any person to membership in this Society. The payment of twenty dollars at one time shall constitute a member for life, and the payment of one hundred dollars at one time shall constitute a life director.

Article VI.—The anniversary of this Society shall be held at the seat of Conference on such day of its session as the Executive Committee may determine, when efforts shall be made for the collection of funds.

Article VII.—An annual collection shall be taken up in all the charges of this Conference, to be reported to the Treasurer by the second day of the Conference session.

Article VIII.—This Society shall be presided over by the President; in its absence, by the Vice-President.

Article IX.—The Secretary shall keep a journal of the proceedings of this Society, preserve the records and papers, and conduct the correspondence under the direction of the President.

Article X.—There shall be a Committee, composed of the Presiding Elders, whose duty it shall be to determine the several portions of the Conference which require Missionary appropriations, and to estimate the amounts respectively necessary to meet the demand.

Article XI.—The Treasurer shall keep an account of all the receipts and disbursements, answer all orders of the Missionary Committee on the Treasury, and exhibit the state of the funds to the Conference at its annual session.

Article XII.—This Constitution may be altered, or amended, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Society, at its annual session.

COMMITTEE OF EXAMINATION.

1st Year—J. C. Dice, R. Smith, G. V. Leech.

2nd Year—J. R. Wheeler, D. W. Arnoid, R. R. S. Hough.

3rd Year—Thos. Hildebrand, J. F. Liggett, J. E. Armstrong.

4th Year—J. S. Martin, S. Rodgers, W. S. Baird.

TRUSTEES OF WESLEYAN FEMALE INSTITUTE.

E. R. Veitch, J. R. Wheeler, S. Regester, G. G. Brooke, F. C. Tebbs, R. Smith.

VISITORS TO WESLEYAN FEMALE INSTITUTE.

J. S. Gardner, J. S. Martin, G. V. Leech.

CONFERENCE STEWARDS.

J. C. Dice, S. Rodgers, J. R. Wheeler, J. W. Wolff, J. Landstreet.

COMMITTEE ON MEMOIRS.

R. R. S. Hough, J. W. Bennett, J. S. Martin, B. F. Brooke.

APPOINTMENTS

Roanoke District, S. Regester, P. E.—Salem, J. R. Wheeler and P. H. Whisner ; Christiansburg, L. R. Jones ; Blacksburg, P. B. Smith ; Jacksonville, A. Q. Flaherty ; Newport, J. F. Bean and E. J. Jamison ; Roanoke, S. F. Butt ; Fincastle, J. P. Etchison and A. A. P. Neal ; Lexington, J. S. Martin ; Fairfield, F. C. Tebbs ; Covington, G. G. Brooke ; Churchville, T. Hildebrand and J. A. H. Moore ; West Augusta, J. B. Jefferson and W. D. Rippetoe ; Monterey, S. P. Dolly and W. B. McNeer ; Highland, Leonidas Butt.

Lewisburg District, J. S. Gardner, P. E.—Lewisburg, S. Rodgers ; Frankford, J. W. Ewan and J. P. Chittum ; White Sulphur, J. Leef and M. May ; Blue Sulphur, P. S. E. Sixeas and L. C. Miller ; Levelton, J. F. Liggett ; Green Bank, J. W. F. Graham ; Monroe, L. D. Nixon and J. N. Gray ; Sweet Springs and Gap Mills, J. W. Bennett and G. W. Carpenter ; Peterstown and Forest Hill, J. C. Wasson and E. H. Jones ; Warm Springs, T. Briley ; Bath Alum, C. A. Joyce.

Rockingham District, E. R. Veitch, P. E.—Staunton, J. C. Dice ; Augusta, H. A. Gaver and J. L. Snyder ; Mt. Sidney, R. Smith ; Rockingham, D. W. Arnold and W. R. Stringer ; East Rockingham, G. V. Leech and L. E. Johnson ; Woodstock, J. E. Armstrong and L. Lenz ; Front Royal, R. R. S. Hough ; Luray, A. P. Boude ; Franklin, S. H. Griffith ; Moorefield, J. Beatty ; South Branch, O. P. Wirgman ; North River, S. Smith ; New Creek, To be supplied. Wesleyan Female Institute, W. S. Baird, Principal.

Winchester District, W. G. Eggleston, P. E.—Winchester, B. F. Brooke ; Winchester Circuit, J. W. Wolff ; Berryville, J. W. Kelley ; Jefferson, I. Gibson and M. G. Balthis ; Shepherdstown, S. McMullen ; Berkeley, J. W. Tongue ; Martins-

burg, To be supplied ; Springfield, W. Hedges ; Wardensville, J. H. March ; Capon, C. L. Torreyson ; Hillsboro', J. H. Waugh, B. Hough and A. Robey ; Shannondale, J. H. Wolff.

Loudoun District, S. S. Roszel, P. E.—Loudoun, F. H. Richey and W. V. Tudor ; Leesburg, S. Cornelius ; Warrenton, R. M. Lipscomb ; Fairfax, To be supplied ; East Fairfax, To be supplied ; Fredericksburg, To be supplied ; Behoboth, To be supplied.

D. Ball, Chaplain C. S. A., and member of Salem Quarterly Conference.

J. P. Hyde, Chaplain C. S. A., and member of Mt. Sidney Quarterly Conference.

J. J. Engle, Chaplain C. S. A., and member of Fincastle Quarterly Conference.

C. F. Linthicum, Chaplain C. S. A., and member of Front Royal Quarterly Conference.

J. M. Grandin, Chaplain C. S. A., and member of Jefferson Quarterly Conference.

T. M. Carson, Chaplain C. S. A., and member of Winchester Quarterly Conference.

John Landstreet, Chaplain C. S. A., and member of Loudoun Quarterly Conference.

L. W. Haslup, C. S. Hospital at Charlottesville, and member of Augusta Quarterly Conference.

J. R. Greenwell, in C. S. service.

W. G. Coe. Left without appointment at his own request.